



FORT GEORGE G. MEADE NEWS RELEASE

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

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Fort Meade agreement with unions on furlough terms

Fort Meade garrison leadership joined with several tenant partners to sign an agreement with the union representing Department of Defense employees at the installation over how proposed administrative furloughs will be implemented.

First Army Division East, Medical Command and Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center, the Dental Activity, the Network Enterprise Center, The Army Field Band, the Logistics Readiness Center, and non-appropriated fund employees of the Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, signed an agreement with the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO Local 1923, Monday, March 18.

The Memorandum of Agreement outlines how notices of proposed furlough are delivered, how the furloughs affect part-time employees, what will happen if the furlough period is shortened and how furlough days will be scheduled. A full copy of the agreement can be found at the Fort Meade website at www.ftmeade.army.mil.

The agreement only covers issues related to implementation of the proposed administrative furlough and makes no changes to the current collective bargaining agreement between Local 1923 and the signatories.

“We want to acknowledge the difficulties and frustrations many employees are experiencing as we work through these difficult times,” said, John Moeller, deputy garrison commander at Fort Meade. “The most important part about implementing the furloughs is to have open communication to ensure our dedicated employees are fully informed of the policies, the regulations and the implementation.”

The Office of Personnel Management requires a 30-day notice of intent to place employees on temporary nonduty, nonpay status. A minimum of 22 furlough days have been proposed as part of the automatic spending cuts contained in the Budget Control Act of 2011. The furloughs amount to an approximate 20 percent per pay period salary reduction.

Once notices are delivered, employees will have seven calendar days to respond.

Leadership on the installation has little authority to request exceptions to the furlough plan; however some aspects of implementation were left for interpretation.

“We all worked cooperatively to come to an agreement relatively quickly,” said. Moeller. “Everyone here understands that the furloughs are an unpleasant reality and we will continue to work together to ensure it is as painless as possible.”

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EDITOR'S NOTE: For more information, or if you are interested in covering this event, please contact: Mary Doyle in the Fort Meade Public Affairs Office at (301) 677-5592 or mary.l.doyle14.civ@mail.mil

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